

A NEW SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PIPE FISH

By

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FAMILY SYNGNATHIDAE.

Histiogamphelus gallinaceus sp. nov.

Male.—Dorsal fin with 23 rays; pectoral with 12 rays; caudal with 10 rays. Thoracic annuli 20; caudal annuli 31. Subdorsal annuli 5 + 2. Brood pouch 13 caudal annuli.

Head about four and one-half times into length of trunk and twelve times into total length; eye a little less than half as long as snout, which is two-fifths as long as head. Trunk two-thirds as long as tail. Caudal fin about one-third as long as head. Cephalic crest rising steeply from the lips, evenly rounded and not bisinuate; continued backwards to beyond middle of second, or pectoral, annulus as a low ridge; no other trace of dorsal median ridge. Latero-superior ridges ending on middle of length of second caudal annulus. Medio-lateral ridges just reaching on to first caudal ring. Latero-inferior ridges and a median abdominal ridge prominent. Tail square in section with four ridges, the upper of which commences near anterior margin of last thoracic annulus

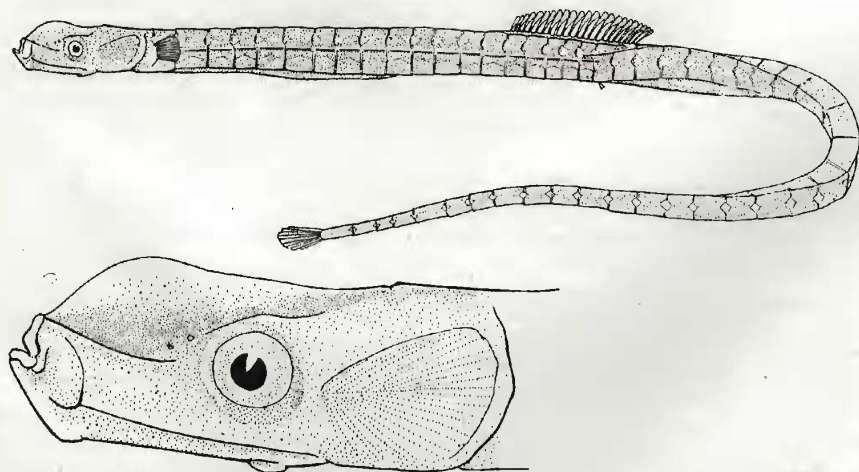
above termination of medio-lateral ridges. Caudal and minute anal fin fan-shaped.

Colour: Dark brown with front of snout white and with grey mottlings on sides and belly. Dorsal fin pink; caudal black.

Length: 196 mm.

Loc.—South Australia, Gulf St. Vincent, silt grounds at Outer Harbour. (A. E. McWaters, August, 1941.) Holotype, male, in South Australian Museum. Reg. No. F.2057.

H. gallinaceus differs from *H. maculatus* (described from a single female) in that the cephalic crest is elevated anteriorly and is not bisinuate, the ridge defining the upper margin of the snout below the crest extends towards the middle of the depth of the eye rather than towards its lower margin, while posteriorly the supra-orbital ridges trend upwards towards the profile. Further, the colour is entirely different, and there is no trace of a median dorsal ridge, excepting for the continuation of the cephalic crest to the second thoracic annulus.



Histiogamphelus gallinaceus sp. nov. Male, holotype.